

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-05 EUR-06 EA-07 ISO-00 IO-03 /044 R

66618

DRAFTED BY AFR/CWR/SED:LHILLSON

APPROVED BY AFR/CWR:FJSPENCER

AFR/CWR:HFARNHAM(DRAFT) AFR/CWR:OCYLKE

DISTRIBUTION 9ACTION AFR CHRON 2 22P

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R 130033Z MAR 74

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AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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AFDROUGHT

ROME FOR FODAG, BRUSSELS FOR MARTIN, PARIS FOR HELMAN,
NDON FOR BAAS.

FOLLOWING USUN 712 ACTION SECSTATE MAR 1ST.

QUOTE

UNCLAS USUN 712

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: AORG, UN, AFDROUGHT

SUBJ: NEW ZEALAND ASSISTANCE TO SAHEL DROUGHT

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FOLLOWING IS PRESS RELEASE PROVIDED BY NEW ZEALAND

MISSION TO THE UN, DATED FEBRUARY 28, WHICH INDICATES
NEW ZEALAND TO PROVIDE NZ\$100,000 (APPROX. US\$148,000)
TO DROUGHT STRICKEN AREAS OF THE SAHEL.

QTE:

THE NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT IS TO GIVE PROTEIN FOOD
TO A VALUE OF NZ\$100,000 (APPROXIMATELY US\$148,000) TO

THE DROUGHT-STRICKEN AREAS OF THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION
OF NORTH-WEST AFRICA. THIS WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY BY THE
ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF NEW ZEALAND,
THE HON. J.A. WALDING.

MR WALDING SAID THAT THE GIFT WAS IN RESPONSE TO A JOINT
APPEAL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY BY THE SECRETARY-
GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF
THE FAO. "THIS APPEAL MAKES IT CLEAR THAT THE SITUATION IN
THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION IS NOT EXPECTED TO IMPROVE SIG-
NIFICANTLY FOR A LONG TIME YET AND THAT RELIANCE ON INTER-
NATIONAL RELIEF ASSISTANCE WILL CONTINUE UNTIL AT LEAST
THE END OF 1974", SAID MR WALDING. "RECENT REPORTS FROM
THE FIELD HAVE REINFORCED THAT ASSESSMENT. WHAT ARE NOW
REQUIRED ARE FOOD AND CASH. IN THE EARLY MONTHS OF THE
DISASTER THE PRINCIPAL REQUIREMENT WAS TRANSPORT.
PARTICULARLY AIRCRAFT, WHICH WAS NOT EASILY PROVIDED
FROM NEW ZEALAND. BUT NOW WE ARE IN A POSITION TO
HELP AND WE PROPOSE TO DO SO, JUST AS WE DID RECENTLY
IN THE SIMILAR ETHIOPIAN SITUATION."

MR WALDING SAID THAT HE WAS NOT ABLE TO SAY WITH
ANY PRECISION WHAT KIND OF FOOD NEW ZEALAND WOULD
SUPPLY. "THE UNITED NATIONS APPEAL MADE PARTICULAR
REFERENCE TO THE NEED FOR 'PROTECTIVE' PROTEIN FOOD
FOR CHILDREN, NURSING MOTHERS AND THE ELDERLY, WHOSE
CONDITION IT DESCRIBED AS CRITICAL, AND IT SPECIFICALLY
MENTIONED MILD POWDER. BUT IT IS MY EXPERIENCE THAT IN
THESE SORTS OF SITUATIONS NEEDS CHANGE AND FLUCTUATE AND
IT MAY BE THAT BY NOW SOME OTHER KIND OF FOOD IS
REQUIRED AT THE PRESENT TIME."

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MR. WALDING SAID THAT HE WAS SURE THAT ALL NEW
ZEALANDERS WOULD WELCOME THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION. "WE
MUST ALL HOPE THAT IT WILL, IN SOME MEASURE AT LEAST,
HELP TO RELIEVE THE SUFFERING AND DISTRESS OF THESE
UNFORTUNATE PEOPLE," HE SAID IN CONCLUSION.

NEW ZEALAND MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK.

28 FEBRUARY 1974 UNQTE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, DROUGHTS, FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE049957
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LHILLSON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740346/aaaabrim.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN AID
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TO THE NEED FOR 'PROTECTIVE' PROTEIN
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 JUL 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <16 JUL 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW ZEALAND ASSISTANCE TO SAHEL DROUGHT UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: AORG, SWEL, NZ, UN
To: WELLINGTON MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005